

WANDERERS FIGHT TO THE LAST WHISTLE

Wycombe Out Of Amateur Cup After Spirited Display On Hendon 'Marsh'

By "CHILTERN"

Hendon 2, Wycombe Wanderers 1

BY rights you should not be reading this now—for this F.A. Amateur Cup fourth-round tie should never have been played. Before the start referee Fred Webb of Newmarket brushed aside protests by the Wycombe officials saying that he knew best and that football was a winter game and must be expected to be played in wintry conditions.

The pitch was covered with four or five inches of heavy mud, which was topped by recent rain. The Crook Town v. Alvechurch and Wealdstone v. Leatherhead ties had already been postponed — and Hendon's ground is notoriously bad.

Again at half-time Wycombe manager Barry Darvill protested to the referee that to continue the game would be a travesty of football justice. Mr. Webb said he had started the game and he was going to finish it.

By this time Hendon had run up a 2-1 lead and their 30-years-old inside-left Jimmy Quail had broken his leg after a harmless-looking tackle by Ian Rundle.

Hendon went ahead after only two minutes with a morale-boosting goal through the man who should have been playing for his country against Scotland — John Evans.

The little Welsh international, who put club before country, was presented with a gift which he accepted gratefully.

After a mix-up between goalkeeper John Maskell and full-back John Beck, Evans was left with an empty net to shoot at. The mistake came from a throw-in. Maskell called for the ball, then changed his mind, and then ran out to the edge of the box to only partially clear to the feet of Evans.

It was a disastrous start for the Wanderers, who looked for the first ten minutes as if they were sulking for having to play on such a quagmire. On the other hand Hendon soon resigned themselves to the fact and settled down.

SET-BACK

Wanderers had already received a set-back before the game when left-half Charlie Gale cried off with 'flu. Reserve Alistair Lewis deputised and had a fine game — his first senior outing of the season.

In fact it was from a well-placed Lewis free-kick in the 12th minute that Bates almost equalised. But England goalkeeper Swannell showed a fine bit of anticipation in cutting off Bates' header.

So we had to wait until the 20th minute for the equaliser. Bates collected a ball on the right wing and dribbled through. After being almost robbed he worked his way to the by-line, drew Swannell and pulled the ball back to Tony Horseman who shot into the net first time.

CREDIT

Full credit must go to both sides for the way they acquitted themselves to the appalling conditions and tried to play good football.

Hendon's winner came in the 35th minute. Rundle failed to clear a through ball and Laurie Churchill, Hendon's best player on the day, broke through and gave Maskell no chance.

Two minutes' later Quail collapsed with a badly smashed leg after an innocent-looking tackle by Rundle, and was rushed to hospital.

From that moment on it was a battle between Wycombe's forwards and the solid Hendon defence.

Half-time came and went and Wycombe played some fine football without much luck.

Time after time goalmouth scrambles seemed as if they must result in a Wycombe goal, but Lady Luck was with the Cup holders.

Swannell made a flying save to a Beck shot, and Horseman shaved the crossbar from a corner taken by Bates. Swannell somehow managed to scramble the ball clear after Merrick's shot had hit the foot of a post, and the same player missed a chance with the keeper out of position.

On the day Wycombe deserved at least a draw, every member of the side looking as good as his counterpart, but it was not to be.

Beck showed his class against the scheming Churchill, and after his one mistake Rundle was solid in the middle.

If at times over enthusiastic, Peter Roystone put in a terrific amount of work, and Barry Darvill must be particularly pleased with reserve Lewis.

All the forwards showed good touches, but at times reverted to their old failing of teeing each other up instead of shooting.

Sleep and Cantwell had fine games in the Hendon defence, while Swain was a constant danger in the middle.

So Wanderers are out of the cup, but at least this was defeat with honour.

Hendon—J. Swannell; D. Hogwood, M. Cooper; D. Shacklock, R. Sleep, B. Cantwell; L. Churchill, J. Evans, D. Swain, J. Quail, D. Hyde.

Wycombe—J. Maskell; D. Bradshaw, J. Beck; B. Baker, I. Rundle, A. Lewis; P. Roystone, K. Samuels, P. Bates, T. Horseman, L. Merrick.